

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /098 W

-----150250Z 073855 /14

R 141606Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6421

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, TS

SUBJECT: ZAIRE: TUNISIAN REACTION

1. IN LEAD EDITORIAL ON APRIL 14, PSD PARTY NEWSPAPER "L'ACTION" EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY FOR ZAIRE IN FACE OF INVASION FROM KATANGA. ARTICLE, WHICH CLEARLY REFLECTS GOT THINKING ON ISSUE, STATES THAT IT IS "NATURAL AND LOGICAL THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES, CONCERNED THEMSELVES WITH PRESERVING THEIR OWN INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, DENOUNCE THIS AGRESSION, EXPRESS THEIR EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY AND COME TO AID OF THIS BROTHER COUNTRY WHICH IS NOW FACING SUCH A DIFFICULT TASK." ARTICLE ATTACKS "CERTAIN AFRICAN STATES" THAT HAVE SPOKEN AGAINST HELP GIVEN BY OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, "SUCH AS MOROCCO AND FRANCE," IN RESPONSE TO APPEALS FROM ZAIRE. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY WARNING AGAINST DANGERS OF AFRICA BECOMEING A COLLECTION OF IDEOLOGICAL SATELLITES RECEIVING THEIR ORDERS FROM FOREIGN MASTERS.

2. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY "LA PRESSE" ON SAME DAY
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PROMINENTLY CHARACTERIZED AID EXTENDED TO ZAIRE BY FRANCE AS "DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY." ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BY U.S. WAS ALSO NOTED IN SEPARATE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE.

3. COMMENT: THIS TREATMENT OF ZAIRE ISSUE IS CONSISTENT WITH INITIAL GOT POSITION EXPRESSED IN PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S APRIL 4 TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU, IN WHICH HE EXTENDED

"TUNISIA'S SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT." TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT
IS OPENLY CONCERNED ABOUT SPREAD OF RADICAL AND COMMUNIST-
INFLUENCED GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA, AND IT MAY ALSO SEE
PARALLELS BETWEEN ZAIRE'S PLIGHT AND ITS OWN DISPUTE WITH
LIBYA.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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